

JAMES BEARD—WIDOW OF.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 774.]

MAY 25, 1860.

Mr. HALE, from the Committee of Claims, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee of Claims, to whom was referred the petition of Harriet Beard, widow of James Beard, deceased, claiming compensation for property destroyed and used by the American army, have had the same under consideration, and report:

The evidence shows that the husband of the petitioner was the owner of a farm near Black Rock, in the county of Erie, New York, in the year 1812, and that the American army, three thousand in number, encamped thereon, and their horses, five hundred in number, were without forage. The weather was cold and wet, and the soldiers, by order of the officers, burned up and destroyed the fencing on the farm. They also took hay, oats, and other kinds of grain from the farm, and did great damage to the place. These facts are well established. Owing to the temporary absence of Mr. Beard from the farm, there was no demand for indemnity, nor has any ever been paid. Your committee are satisfied of the justice of the claim, and fix the amount at five hundred dollars, the lowest estimate which could be made in view of the testimony; and they report a bill accordingly, and recommend its passage.

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